

REMARKS

Claims 69-70, 73-74, 76, 78, and 98 remain in this application. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claim 98. Applicants have amended dependent claims 69-70, 73-74, 76, and 78 so that they depend from allowed claim 98.

Election/Restrictions

The Examiner has submitted that the application contains claims 67-71, 78 and 83-97 directed to a nonelected invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that this is moot in view of the above amendments.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 67-71, 78 and 83-97 due to informalities.

Applicants respectfully submit that this is moot in view of the above amendments.

35 U.S.C. §102(e) Rejection – Loffler

The Examiner has rejected claim 65 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0071797 issued to Loffler et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that this is moot in view of the above amendments.

35 U.S.C. §102(e) Rejection – Bunk

The Examiner has rejected claim 65 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0103880 issued to Bunk, et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that this is moot in view of the above amendments

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection – Long in view of Basch

The Examiner has rejected claims 65-66, 72-77, 79 and 82 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,702,491 issued to Long et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,607,066 issued to Basch.

Applicants respectfully submit that this is moot in view of the above amendments

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection – Basch in view of Long

The Examiner has rejected claims 65-66, 72-77, 79 and 82 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,607,066 issued to Basch in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,702,491 issued to Long et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that this is moot in view of the above amendments

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection – Long/Basch and/or Basch/Long and Corey

The Examiner has rejected claims 80-81 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over a) U.S. Patent No. 5,702,491 issued to Long et al. and U.S. Patent No. 3,607,066 issued to Basch; and/or b) U.S. Patent No. 3,607,066 issued to Basch and U.S. Patent No. 5,702,491 issued to Long et al., as applied to claim 65 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0209137 issued to Corey, et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that this is moot in view of the above amendments.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed at the earliest possible date.

Request For Telephone Interview

The Examiner is invited to call Brent E. Vecchia at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request For An Extension Of Time

The Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 for such an extension.

Charge Our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 3/13/06

Brent E. Vecchia
Brent E. Vecchia
Reg. No. 48,011

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1030
(303) 740-1980

Attorney Docket No. 42P13786
Application No. 10/086,904